

CLAIMS

1. An epithelial tumor cell with metastatic potential which has integrated in its genome or another replicative genetic element an externally introduced immortalizing oncogene which is expressed in said cell.
 2. The epithelial tumor cell according to claim 1 which is a disseminated tumor cell.
 3. The epithelial tumor cell according to claim 1 or 2 which is an autologous tumor cell.
 4. The epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 3 which is a human tumor cell.
 5. The epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 4 which is derived from bone marrow.
 6. The epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said immortalizing oncogene is the DNA encoding the early region of SV40 DNA and preferably the large T antigen of a replication deficient SV40 virus.
 7. The epithelial tumor cell according to claim 6, wherein said replication deficiency is caused by (a) defect(s) in the origin of replication and/or (a) defect(s) in the antigen coding region.
 8. The epithelial tumor cell according to claim 6 or 7, wherein said SV40 virus is non-infectious.
 9. The epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 8 which has integrated in its genome at least one additional oncogene.

10. The epithelial tumor cell according to claim 9, wherein said additional oncogene is ras, mutant WT1, bcl-2, p53mut, myc, HER 2/neu, an HPV16 oncogene, an HPV18 oncogene or E1A.
11. The epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 10, which has additionally integrated in its genome or another replicative genetic element at least one externally introduced gene encoding an immunostimulatory factor.
12. The epithelial tumor cell according to claim 11, wherein said immunostimulatory factor is B7 or a cytokine, preferably IL-2, IL-4, IL-7, IFN- α or IFN- γ .
13. An antibody or fragment thereof or a derivative of said antibody or said fragment thereof which specifically recognizes the tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12.
14. The antibody or fragment thereof according to claim 13 which is monoclonal antibody or fragment thereof.
15. The derivative or fragment according to claim 13 which is a fusion protein or a chemical conjugate, preferably a bispecific antibody.
16. An in vitro process for the production of the tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12 comprising the step of incorporating DNA comprising DNA encoding at least one immortalizing oncogene and optionally at least one gene encoding an immunostimulatory factor into a non-immortalized epithelial tumor cell with metastatic potential.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein said step of incorporating DNA comprises microinjection or bombardment with DNA-coated microparticles.
 18. The process according to claim 16 or 17, additionally comprising the step of carrying out a primary expansion of said non-immortalized epithelial tumor cells prior to the microinjection or bombardment step.
 19. The process according to claim 18, wherein said primary expansion comprises the step of culturing tissue or a body fluid comprising non-immortalized epithelial tumor cells in a suitable medium promoting the expansion of said tumor cells.
 20. The process according to claim 19, wherein said body fluid is bone marrow, blood, ascites or pleural exsudate.
 21. The process according to claim 19 or 20, wherein said medium comprises EGF and/or bFGF, preferably rh EGF and rhb FGF.
 22. The process according to any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein said culturing step is carried out in ECM-coated tissue flasks and/or at reduced oxygen concentrations of 5-10%.
 23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and/or the antibody or derivative or fragment thereof of any one of claims 13 to 15, optionally in combination with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

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24. A diagnostic composition comprising the epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and/or the antibody or derivative or fragment thereof of any one of claims 13 to 15.
 25. Use of the epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12 for the preparation of a medicament for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of cancer and/or metastasis of cancer.
 26. Use of the antibody or derivative or fragment thereof according to any one of claims 13 to 15 for the preparation of a medicament for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of cancer and/or metastasis of cancer.
 27. Use of the epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12 or the antibody or derivative or fragment thereof of any one of claims 13 to 15 for the preparation of a tumor vaccine.
 28. Use of the epithelial tumor cell according to any one of claims 1 to 12 for the ex vivo stimulation of a patient's immune cells.

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